

We claim:

1        1. A method comprising:

2            determining a first semantic sub-space within a semantic  
3            space in response to an input term; and

4            displaying at least one document positioned with said first  
5            semantic sub-space if any documents are contained therein.

1        2. A method according to claim 1 further wherein if  
2            said semantic sub-space contains no documents then determining an  
3            expanded semantic sub-space, said expanded semantic sub-space  
4            larger than said first semantic sub-space, said determining  
5            repeated until at least one document is contained therein.

1        3. A method according to claim 2 wherein determining  
2            said expanded semantic sub-space includes increasing a radius of  
3            semantic distance about the meaning corresponding to the input  
4            term.

1        4. A method according to claim 1 further wherein if no  
2            documents are contained in said first semantic sub-space then no  
3            documents are displayed.

1        5. A method according to claim 1 further wherein if  
2            said semantic sub-space contains no documents then determining an  
3            expanded semantic sub-space, said expanded semantic sub-space  
4            larger than said first semantic sub-space, said determining

5       repeated until the one of the following occurs: at least one  
6       document is contained in the expanded semantic sub-space and the  
7       expanded semantic sub-space reaches a given threshold.

1                 6. A method according to claim 1 wherein said  
2       documents are advertisements.

1                 7. A method according to claim 6 wherein said  
2       advertisements are Internet banner ads.

1                 8. A method according to claim 1 wherein said first  
2       semantic sub-space is redefined based upon further inputs of the  
3       particular meaning of said input term if said input term has more  
4       than one meaning in said semantic space.

1                 9. A method according to claim 1 further comprising:  
2                         indexing documents within said semantic space.

1                 10. A method according to claim 7 wherein banner ads  
2       may be sold to an advertiser by an information portal based upon  
3       is desired position within semantic space.

1                 11. A method according to claim 10 wherein said banner  
2       ads are displayed to a user of said information portal, said user  
3       providing the input term.

1                 12. A method comprising:  
2                         determining the semantic distance and relationship between a  
3       purchased synset in a semantic space and an input term, said

**BEST AVAILABLE COPY**

4      input triggering the retrieval of an ad purchased for a semantic  
5      sub-space about said semantic space;

6            determining the price of said retrieved ad based upon said  
7      determined distance and relationship.

1            13. A method according to claim 12 wherein the price  
2      of the retrieved ad is determined to be inversely  
3      proportional to the determined semantic distance.

1            14. A method comprising:

2            inputting at least one term to a semantic engine;  
3            determining a first semantic sub-space within a  
4      semantic space in response to an input term; and  
5            retrieving all words and meanings contained within said  
6      semantic sub-space.

1            15. A method according to claim 14 further comprising:  
2            outputting said retrieved words and meanings.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY